

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TOWNS & COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB- COMMITTEE
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford
9 February 2021 (7.05 - 9.20 pm)**

Present:

Councillors Keith Darvill, Paul Middleton, Gerry O'Sullivan, Christopher Wilkins, Robby Misir (Vice-Chair), Timothy Ryan, Carol Smith and Ray Best (Chairman)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tony Durdin

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no apologies for absence.

29 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

30 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

31 PROTOCOL FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS

The Committee noted the protocol.

32 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

33 HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME

The report presented to the committee gave an update on the Housing Allocation Strategy.

Members of the Committee noted that 1994 applicants were on the waiting list as of 31 March 2020 with an approximate waiting time of 2.5 years. It was noted that properties to re-let had increased since 2017-18 and applicants could wait up to 7 years to be permanently housed. It was also noted that the 5 bands for emergency rehousing had been updated to the following:

Band 1 – which covered moves due to risk of harm or important works and regeneration

Band 2a – which covered armed forces, care leavers and disabled residents
Band 2b – which covered foster carers
Band 2c – which covered volunteers and unsanitary conditions
Band 3 – which covered overcrowding, moderate medical needs and housing for older people

It was noted that the register would stay closed, the waiting numbers had stayed at 1,900 and there equality impacts have been mitigated. It was noted that evidence is needed to prove sufficient needs and the new bands would increase the waiting time of applicants.

The Committee agreed the statutory consultation on the draft Housing Allocation Scheme.

34 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee received a quarter 3 performance report.

It was noted that the response to claims was still under target but was improving, repairs completed had decreased into amber. HRA gas compliance had decreased from green to red and over debit had stayed in red but had improved. It was also noted by the Committee that the average days to re-let had reduced further into red and major/minor/other planning applications were green and above the national benchmark set at 65%.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

35 URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Keith Darvill put before the Committee the issue in the reduction of public automated toilets in the Borough. The committee discussed the inconvenience that removing 7 public automated toilets.

Chairman